AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

No claims are amended, but the following is a clean set of claims for the Examiner's convenience:

1. (Currently Amended)   A method of configuring a home entertainment network terminal at a subscriber site, comprising:

provisioning the home entertainment network terminal by using DHCP services of a DHCP server residing at a service provider site to obtain a unique terminal identifier, wherein the DHCP services use DHCP option 43 to define a scope of the subscriber site in which the scope is defined to be equal to a subset of the maximum number of potential peer terminals residing at the subscriber site a maximum number of potential peer terminals at the subscriber site, wherein the DHCP services use DHCP option 15 to define a unique sub-domain name for the subscriber site, and wherein the DHCP services use DHCP option 12 to define a common host name including a number for the terminal wherein the number falls within the scope of the subscriber site;

wherein the home entertainment network terminal is identified within the home network by an address comprising a concatenation of the terminal identifier and the host name;

carrying out a discovery process by attempting to contact each terminal within the sub-domain within the scope of the subscriber site defined by the DHCP option 43, wherein the discovery process is limited by the maximum number of potential peer terminals at the subscriber site; and

for at least one terminal identified in the discovery process, synchronizing a database with a database residing at the identified terminal.

2. (Original)   The method according to claim 1, wherein the synchronizing comprises synchronizing to an identified terminal having a database carrying a most recent time stamp.

3. (Original)   The method according to claim 1, wherein the synchronizing comprises synchronizing to an identified terminal having either a lowest or highest ordered identifier.

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4. (Original)   The method according to claim 1, wherein the database comprises a transactional based database.

5. (Original)   The method according to claim 1, further comprising determining that a re-discovery time has arrived and repeating the carrying out the discovery process and the synchronizing.

6. (Original)   The method according to claim 1, further comprising listing an identified terminal in a list of active terminals in the sub-domain.

7. (Original)   The method according to claim 1, wherein the discovery process further comprises attempting unsuccessfully to contact a terminal, and marking the unsuccessfully contacted terminal as invalid on a list of active terminals in the sub-domain.

8. (Original)   The method according to claim 1, wherein the discovery process further comprises carrying out a specified number of attempts to contact a terminal, and if the terminal is not successfully contacted within the specified number of attempts, marking the unsuccessfully contacted terminal as invalid on a list of active terminals in the sub-domain.

9. (Currently Amended)   A method of configuring a home entertainment network terminal at a subscriber site, comprising:

    provisioning the home entertainment network terminal by using DHCP services of a DHCP server residing at a service provider site to obtain a unique terminal identifier, wherein the DHCP services use DHCP option 43 to define a scope of the subscriber site, wherein the DHCP services use DHCP option 15 to define a unique sub-domain name for the subscriber site, and wherein the DHCP services use DHCP option 12 to define a common host name for the terminal;

    provisioning the home entertainment network terminal by using DHCP services to obtain a unique terminal identifier, wherein the DHCP services use DHCP option 43 to define a scope of the subscriber site in which the scope is defined to be equal to a subset of the maximum

number of potential peer terminals residing at the subscriber site ~~a maximum number of potential peer terminals at the subscriber site~~, wherein the DHCP services use DHCP option 15 to define a unique sub-domain name for the subscriber site, and wherein the DHCP services use DHCP option 12 to define a common host name including a number for the terminal wherein the number falls within the scope of the subscriber site;

wherein the home entertainment network terminal is identified within the home network by an address comprising a concatenation of the terminal identifier and the host name;

carrying out a discovery process by attempting to contact each terminal within the sub-domain within the scope of the subscriber site defined by the DHCP option 43, wherein the discovery process is limited by the maximum number of potential peer terminals at the subscriber site;

for at least one terminal identified in the discovery process, synchronizing a transactional based database with a database residing at the identified terminal, the identified terminal having a database carrying a most recent time stamp, and wherein the identified terminal has either a lowest or highest ordered identifier;

listing the identified terminal in a list of active terminals in the sub-domain; and

determining that a re-discovery time has arrived and repeating the carrying out the discovery process and the synchronizing.

10. (Original) The method according to claim 9, wherein the discovery process further comprises carrying out a specified number of attempts to contact a terminal, and if the terminal is not successfully contacted within the specified number of attempts, marking the unsuccessfully contacted terminal as invalid on a list of active terminals in the sub-domain.

11. (Currently Amended)   A home entertainment network terminal, comprising:

a network interface that receives content and data from a network;

a display interface that carries content from the network to a display for viewing by a user;

a database;

a processor, coupled to the network interface, that operates under programmed control to:

provision the home entertainment network terminal by using DHCP services <u>of a</u> <u>DHCP server residing at the network's service provider site</u> to obtain a unique terminal identifier, wherein the DHCP services use DHCP option 43 to define a scope of the subscriber site in which the scope is defined to be equal to <u>a subset of the maximum</u> <u>number of potential peer terminals residing at the subscriber site</u> ~~a maximum number of~~ ~~potential peer terminals at the subscriber~~, wherein the DHCP services use DHCP option 15 to define a unique sub-domain name for the subscriber site, and wherein the DHCP services use DHCP option 12 to define a common host name including a number for the terminal wherein the number falls within the scope of the subscriber site;

wherein the home entertainment network terminal is identified within the home network by an address comprising a concatenation of the terminal identifier and the host name;

carry out a discovery process by attempting to contact each terminal within the sub-domain within the scope of the subscriber site defined by the DHCP option 43, wherein the discovery process is limited by the maximum number of potential peer terminals at the subscriber site; and

for at least one terminal identified in the discovery process, synchronize the database with a database residing at the identified terminal.

12. (Original) The home entertainment network terminal according to claim 11, wherein the synchronizing comprises synchronizing to an identified terminal having a database carrying a most recent time stamp.

13. (Original) The home entertainment network terminal according to claim 11, wherein the synchronizing comprises synchronizing to an identified terminal having either a lowest or highest ordered identifier.

14. (Original) The home entertainment network terminal according to claim 11, wherein the database comprises a transactional based database.

15. (Original) The home entertainment network terminal according to claim 11, wherein the processor further operates under program control to determine that a re-discovery time has arrived and repeating the carrying out the discovery process and the synchronizing.

16. (Original) The home entertainment network terminal according to claim 11, wherein the processor further operates under program control to list an identified terminal in a list of active terminals in the sub-domain.

17. (Original) The home entertainment network terminal according to claim 11, wherein the processor further operates under program control to determine that an attempt to contact a terminal was unsuccessful, and to mark the unsuccessfully contacted terminal as invalid on a list of active terminals in the sub-domain.

18. (Original) The home entertainment network terminal according to claim 11, wherein the processor further operates under program control to carrying out a specified number of attempts to contact a terminal, and if the terminal is not successfully contacted within the specified number of attempts, mark the unsuccessfully contacted terminal as invalid on a list of active terminals in the sub-domain.

19. (Currently Amended)   A home entertainment network terminal, comprising:

means for provisioning the home entertainment network terminal by using DHCP services of a DHCP server residing at a service provider site to obtain a unique terminal identifier, wherein the DHCP services use DHCP option 43 to define a scope of the subscriber site in which the scope is defined to be equal to a subset of the maximum number of potential peer terminals residing at the subscriber site a maximum number of potential peer terminals at the subscriber site, wherein the DHCP services use DHCP option 15 to define a unique sub-

domain name for the subscriber site, and wherein the DHCP services use DHCP option 12 to define a common host name including a number for the terminal wherein the number falls within the scope of the subscriber site;

wherein the home entertainment network terminal is identified within the home network by an address comprising a concatenation of the terminal identifier and the host name;

means for carrying out a discovery process by attempting to contact each terminal within the sub-domain within the scope of the subscriber site defined by the DHCP option 43, wherein the discovery process is limited by the maximum number of potential peer terminals at the subscriber site; and

means for synchronizing a database with a database residing at the identified terminal.

20. (Cancelled)

21. (Original) The home entertainment network terminal according to claim 19, wherein the synchronizing comprises synchronizing to an identified terminal having a database carrying a most recent time stamp.

22. (Original) The home entertainment network terminal according to claim 19, wherein the synchronizing comprises synchronizing to an identified terminal having either a lowest or highest ordered identifier.

23. (Original) The home entertainment network terminal according to claim 19, further comprising means for determining that a re-discovery time has arrived and repeating the carrying out the discovery process and the synchronizing.

24. (Original) The home entertainment network terminal according to claim 19, further comprising means for listing an identified terminal in a list of active terminals in the sub-domain, and marking an unsuccessfully contacted terminal as invalid on the list of active terminals in the sub-domain.

25. (Original) The home entertainment network terminal according to claim 19, wherein the terminal comprises a television set-top box.

26. (Currently Amended)   A computer readable storage medium storing instructions which, when executed on a programmed processor, carry out a process of configuring a home entertainment network terminal at a subscriber site, comprising:

provisioning a home entertainment network terminal by using DHCP services of a DHCP server residing at a service provider site to obtain a unique terminal identifier, wherein the DHCP services use DHCP option 43 to define a scope of the subscriber site where the scope is defined as a subset of the maximum number of potential peer terminals residing at the subscriber site a maximum number of potential peer terminals at the subscriber site, wherein the DHCP services use DHCP option 15 to define a unique sub-domain name for the subscriber site, and wherein the DHCP services use DHCP option 12 to define a common host name for the terminal;

carrying out a discovery process by attempting to contact each terminal in the sub-domain within the scope defined by DHCP option; and

synchronizing a database with a database of the identified terminal.

27. (Cancelled)

28. (Original) The storage medium according to claim 26, wherein the synchronizing comprises synchronizing to an identified terminal having a database carrying a most recent time stamp.

29. (Original) The storage medium according to claim 26, wherein the synchronizing comprises synchronizing to an identified terminal having either a lowest or highest ordered identifier.

30. (Previously Presented)   The storage medium according to claim 26, further comprising determining that a re-discovery time has arrived and repeating the carrying out the discovery process and the synchronizing.

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31. (Previously Presented)   The storage medium according to claim 26, further comprising listing an identified terminal in a list of active terminals in the sub-domain, and marking an unsuccessfully contacted terminal as invalid on the list of active terminals in the sub-domain.

32. (Currently Amended)   A method of configuring a home entertainment network terminal at a subscriber site, comprising:

provisioning a home entertainment network terminal by using DHCP services of a DHCP server residing at a service provider site to obtain a unique terminal identifier, wherein the DHCP services use DHCP option 43 to define a scope of the subscriber site in which the scope is defined to be equal to a subset of the maximum number of potential peer terminals residing at the subscriber site a maximum number of potential peer terminals at the subscriber site, wherein the DHCP services use DHCP option 15 to define a unique sub-domain name for the subscriber site, and wherein the DHCP services use DHCP option 12 to define a common host name including a number for the terminal wherein the number falls within the scope of the subscriber site;

wherein the home entertainment network terminal is identified within the home network by an address comprising a concatenation of the terminal identifier and the host name;

carrying out a discovery process by attempting to contact each terminal within the sub-domain within the scope of the subscriber site defined by the DHCP option 43, wherein the discovery process is limited by the maximum number of potential peer terminals at the subscriber site; and

synchronizing a database with a database residing at the identified terminal.

33. (Cancelled)

34. (Original) The method according to claim 32, wherein the synchronizing comprises synchronizing to an identified terminal having a database carrying a most recent time stamp.

35. (Original) The method according to claim 32, wherein the synchronizing comprises synchronizing to an identified terminal having either a lowest or highest ordered identifier.

36. (Original) The method according to claim 32, further comprising determining that a re-discovery time has arrived and repeating the carrying out the discovery process and the synchronizing.

37. (Original) The method according to claim 32, further comprising listing an identified terminal in a list of active terminals in the sub-domain, and marking an unsuccessfully contacted terminal as invalid on the list of active terminals in the sub-domain.

38. (Previously Presented)   The home entertainment network terminal according to claim 32, wherein the terminal comprises a television set-top box.

39. (Previously Presented)   The storage medium according to claim 26, wherein the storage medium resides with the home entertainment network terminal.

40. (Previously Presented)   The storage medium claim 39, wherein the home entertainment network terminal comprises a television set-top box.

41. (New)   The method according to claim 1, wherein the scope has a maximum of eight terminals.

42. (New)   The home entertainment network terminal according to claim 11, wherein the scope has a maximum of eight terminals.

42. (New)   The home entertainment network terminal according to claim 19, wherein the scope has a maximum of eight terminals.

43. (New)   The method according to claim 32, wherein the scope has a maximum of eight terminals.